GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1099
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2016
National Milk Safety Standards
Gaikwad Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath;Gogoi Shri Gaurav;Maurya Shri Keshav Prasad;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the surge in the cases of sale of adulterated food articles particularly milk/ milk products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of such cases reported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate National Milk Safety Standards to check adulterated milk across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb adulterated food items?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a) & (b): Some cases of adulteration of milk and other food articles have come to the notice of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The Commissioners of Food Safety throughout the country are repeatedly urged to take up strict enforcement of standards prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards Regulations. As per information made available by the State/UT Governments to FSSAI, the numbers of samples of food products including milk and milk products collected, analysed, samples found adulterated/misbranded and action taken during the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 (1st April to 30th September, 2015) are at Annexure-I, II, and III respectively.

(c) & (d): The standards of milk and milk products have been prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Revisions of these standards or setting up new standards is a dynamic process. Accordingly, standards prescribed in these regulations are amended or new standards are set-up from time to time as and when required.

(e): The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. FSSAI regularly takes up the issue of enforcement of the provisions of the Act and regulations thereunder with the State/UT authorities, through periodic written communications as also interaction during the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee. A Surveillance Plan for States has been prepared by a Working Group of Food Safety Commissioners taking into account various parameters including consumption pattern for cultural/festival occasions. Further, in order to pay a focused attention to the adulteration of milk and milk products, a special cell has been created in the FSSAI. The Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare has vide D.O. letter dated 13.02.2016 also requested the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs to issue instructions to the administrative and police authorities to extend all possible cooperation to the food safety authorities in carrying out surveillance activities to check food adulteration and manufacture/sale of sub-standards food items.